



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December , 2004

**BROOMALL INVESTMENT CONSULANT CHARGED IN  
\$24 MILLION FRAUD**

**Charges Allege 217 Victims Including School Districts, Hospitals, And Banks**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of a two-count information<sup>1</sup> against Robert F. Bentley and Monty Ray Parker. Count One of the information charges Bentley with mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341; Count Two charges both defendants with bank bribery in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 215.

The charge in Count One arises from a scheme to defraud conducted by defendant Bentley, in connection with his corporation, Bentley Financial Services (“Bentley Financial”), formerly located in Paoli, Pennsylvania. Bentley Financial was taken under receivership by action of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) in late 2001. The information alleges that from 1994 until October 2001, defendant Bentley operated Bentley Financial as a Ponzi scheme, in which Bentley sold investors notes which Bentley falsely represented were certificates of deposit (“CDs”) insured by the FDIC, but which were, in fact, merely defendant Bentley’s promises to repay the principal of the notes along with a certain rate of interest (“the fraudulent notes”). The information charges further that through his sale of the fraudulent notes, defendant Bentley caused a loss of approximately \$24,000,000 to approximately 217 investors such as school districts, hospitals and banks.

“For almost eight years, this defendant literally sold his victims one empty promise after another,” said Meehan, who is one of seven U.S. Attorney’s to serve on President Bush’s Corporate Fraud Task Force. “This was a long-running scheme in which individuals and the institutions they represented were seen more as targets than investors.”

Count Two of the information charges Bentley and a second defendant, Parker, in connection with a scheme separate from the fraudulent note scheme charged in Count One. Count Two charges that in addition to selling the fraudulent notes, Bentley Financial was also

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<sup>1</sup> An Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

engaged in the business of selling municipal bonds, treasury bonds and agency mortgage-backed securities ("bonds") to certain customers. In 1994, Parker was a vice-president of Sunflower Bank, N.A. ("Sunflower Bank"), a bank located in Salina, Kansas. According to the information, Bentley promised defendant Parker that if Parker would purchase bonds for Sunflower Bank through Bentley Financial, Bentley would kick back one-third of Bentley Financial's commissions to Parker. The information charges that from 1994 until October 2001, defendant Bentley, acting through Bentley Financial, sold approximately \$185,206,625 in bonds to Sunflower Bank, and defendant Bentley corruptly paid to defendant Parker approximately one third of the commissions received by Bentley Financial on such bond purchases, that is, approximately \$1,000,000 total

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Robert F. Bentley	Bayberry Drive, Broomall PA	46
Monty Ray Parker	Hillside Drive, Salina KS	33

If convicted, defendant Bentley faces a maximum of 35 years in prison, a \$3,250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, a \$200 special assessment, restitution, and forfeiture of the proceeds of both the Count One fraud and the bribe proceeds.

If convicted, defendant Parker faces a maximum of 30 years in prison, a \$3,000,000 fine, three years of supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, restitution, and forfeiture of the bribe proceeds.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Denver, Colorado office of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which previously brought a civil action against Robert Bentley and related entities (SEC v. Robert L. Bentley et al., E.D. Pa. Civil Action 01-CV-5366). It has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Mary E. Crawley.

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